



BACI E-NEWS

Building Active Communities Initiative

WINTER 2015

Winter Update

A lot has happened since our last update in our Fall 2014 BACI E-News. BACI staff and a few Advisors attended the Pro Walk Pro Bike Pro Place Conference in Pittsburg, PA where we saw Secretary Foxx, U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), announce a new U.S. DOT initiative to reduce the growing number of pedestrian and bicyclist injuries and fatalities.

They are taking a comprehensive approach that addresses infrastructure safety, education, vehicle safety and data collection. The 18-month campaign will begin with road safety assessments conducted by U.S. DOT field offices in every state, and will produce multiple resources to help communities build streets that are safer for people walking, bicycling, and taking public transportation.

The Montana road safety assessment is scheduled for May 19th in Helena. More on this in our BACI Spring E-News.

Secretary Foxx is challenging mayors and local elected officials to take significant action to improve safety for bicycle riders and pedestrians of all ages and abilities over the next year. Read more about the *Mayors' Challenge* and sign up at this website: <http://www.dot.gov/mayors-challenge>.



U.S. DOT Secretary Foxx at Pro Walk Pro Bike Pro Place conference in Pittsburg, PA

Also included on this website is a listing of the seven *Mayor's Challenge Activities* and a detailed explanation of each of the activities and resources to help implement them.

Lots going on with the Anaconda BACI Team! (see page 3)



Before work got started creating the Demonstration "parklet" in Anaconda



Presto! A great place to sit and chat and eat ice-cream was created in Anaconda!

2015 BACI Updates

BACI staff and advisors presented at a Vibrant Futures workshop in Havre for communities on the Hi-Line—*Safe and Accessible: Improving Street and Trail Networks*. It was at this event that the City of Havre became interested in applying for the BACI Action Institute. Their application was accepted and they attended the Action Institute along with three other communities on March 17-19 in Bozeman. The other communities are: Hardin, Park County and Red Lodge. We are very excited about this year's participants! (more in BACI Spring E-News)



Vibrant Futures Workshop in Havre, MT

We have more success stories from BACI communities. The City of Belgrade passed a "complete streets" policy, which they called Safe and Usable Streets, on October 20, 2014 and Dawson County passed their Complete Streets Policy the next day! Dawson County's policy was recognized nationally as the third highest ranked policy of the over 70 policies that were passed across the country last year. Congratulations Dawson County! They are the first county in Montana to pass a policy. We now have nine complete streets policies that have been adopted in Montana.

Another exciting opportunity took place this May. New Mobility West, a project of the Sonoran Institute, held their third Community Mobility Institute, May 11-13 in Bozeman. Look for more information on the New Mobility West project in the BACI Spring E-News and on their website or contact Jillian Sutherland, jsutherland@sonoraninstitute.org.

Dawson County recognized nationally for their Complete Streets Policy in the National Complete Streets Coalition's "Best Complete Streets Policies of 2014".



2015 BACI Updates: Highlight Anaconda

The Building Active Anaconda Team (BAAT) has been very busy since last fall. They were successful in attracting two technical assistance opportunities which have been helpful for their efforts. The first was an America Walks workshop where the BAAT, America Walk's Executive Director Scott Bricker, and BACI staff hosted a community workshop and demonstration project. The demonstration was a temporary "parklet" that was "constructed" along one of Anaconda's downtown intersections. They also put up several low-cost wayfinding signs they ordered over the internet at walkyourcity.org as a pilot. We have just learned that the Anaconda Community Foundation has committed funds to the community to construct a more permanent parklet to be used this summer. Many parklets are constructed so that they can be removed in the winter months to allow plowing. For more information on parklets and other BACI resources check out the new BACI website: <http://www.umt.edu/sell/cps/baci/>.

Action Shots



America Walk's Scott Bricker conducting a walk-audit



Great conversations and ideas percolated at the "parklet"



New Mobility West Technical Assistance workshop



A temporary pilot wayfinding project let citizens know how close destinations were to walk.

The New Mobility West technical assistance grant was a competitive application process that resulted in a three-day site visit with facilitators from the Project for Public Spaces (PPS). Community listening sessions, walking audits, interviews with business owners and key leaders in the community resulted in an illustrated report with recommendations from PPS called *A Vision for Downtown Anaconda: Placemaking and Street Design*. This report generated a lot of community interest and resulted in a productive conversation with the Montana Department of Transportation about how a street maintenance project that will take place this summer could be redesigned to make walking and biking safer and more enjoyable in Anaconda's downtown core.

Our Team

Building Active Community Initiative Staff:

Cathy Costakis, Senior Consultant—Built Environment, Montana State University, Office of Rural Health
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Get in touch:

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The Building Active Communities Initiative (BACI) is a project of the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services' Nutrition and Physical Activity Program (NAPA) in partnership with Montana State University's Office of Rural Health and Bike Walk Montana.

The goal of BACI is to create or enhance community environments so that people of all ages, abilities and income levels can safely walk, bike or take public transportation to places they need to go.



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